

Journal of what occurred in the Abnaquis
Mission from the feast of Christmas,
1683 until October 6, 1684.

MY REVEREND FATHER,
Pax Christi.

When I finished, last year, the little narrative which I sent you concerning The State of our mission,—which had just been named the mission of St. François de Sales,¹—I was announcing to you that we were about to induce our savages to acknowledge as their Patron and Father that Holy Prelate who had so much zeal for the Conversion of souls. We began, three Days after Christmas, by solemnly declaring in The Church that we were about to take that saint for the protector of our Mission. We chose the Day of The death of Saint Francis de Sales; and, on The day before, an altar was set up in The Church of our Mission, where was exposed The Image of the Saint, which the savages adorned with everything most beautiful in their possession. The whole Altar was covered with a great number of Collars, made in all sorts of designs; Bugle beads and strings of porcelain; and articles worked with glass Beads and porcupine quills.² I added the most beautiful ornaments that we have in our Church, and as many Lights as our poor Mission could furnish. The whole Ceremony began with The Invocation of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, to whom St. Francis de Sales had been so Devoted,—as I explained to